

Position Statement

Self-Reporting of Criminal Offence

The College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Nova Scotia (CLPNNS) is the regulatory body for Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN) of Nova Scotia. The mandate of CLPNNS is to protect the public; CLPNNS does so by setting and enforcing the requirements for entry into the profession, the Standards of Practice, and a Code of Ethics. The College promotes the delivery of safe, competent and ethical care to clients through the privilege of self-regulation, and through standards of continued competency for its members. The CLPNNS maintains that LPNs are accountable for their own practice and actions at all times.

In accordance with the LPN Act 2006, Section 42 (a)-(d), LPNs are required to self-report to the College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Nova Scotia if they have been charged with, have pleaded guilty to, been convicted, or found to be guilty in or out of Canada, of any offence that is inconsistent with the proper professional behaviour of a member, including a conviction under (unless a pardon has been issued)

- the Criminal Code (Canada)
- the Controlled Drug and Substances Act (Canada)
- such other legislation as prescribed in the regulations

LPNs are also required to report if they

- have been found guilty of a disciplinary finding in another jurisdiction
- have had a licensing sanction imposed by another jurisdiction
- is the subject of an investigation or disciplinary process in another jurisdiction

Self-reporting is an obligation that applies to both initial licensure and annual registration renewal. Once a nurse self-reports, the Executive Director-Registrar may, by reasonable notice, require the person to fully disclose the facts or circumstances of a conviction.

The severity of the offence, the relevance to practice, as well as, the applicant's ability to demonstrate successful remediation, or rehabilitation will be assessed. The decision whether to proceed to a disciplinary hearing, and if so, what penalty to seek, will depend on all of the circumstances of the case.

Failing to disclose such information or falsifying registration forms may be grounds for further action including professional misconduct.



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References

Government of Nova Scotia, Licensed Practical Nurses Act, Statutes of Nova Scotia, c.17, Halifax, 2006.

College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Alberta. (2004). *Self-Reporting of Criminal Offences*. Edmonton, AB: Author.

College of Nurses of Ontario. (2011). Reporting criminal offences. *The Standard*, (4), 24–25.



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